

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Bellefontaine News

August 2020

9641 Bellefontaine Road

(314) 867-0076

St. Louis County, MO 63137

From The Office of The Mayor.....

Tommie Pierson Sr.



Greetings Residents,

During this budget year, our priority is to continue to move forward as best as possible to provide the best services to our community in a very mindful manner. We are in the midst of managing a very unique financial situation that has been prompted by the COVID-19

pandemic, which has had an adverse impact on our economy at all levels.

Our expenses reflect a continuing growth due to inflation and cost of goods and services. Our staffing in Administration and the Street Department have been stabilized but the demand for services continue to rise. It is the continued belief that monies must be raised going forward from sources we, as a City, have not raised in far too many years. This is primarily from user fees and business licenses. Looking to the future, as recommended in prior years, I recommend the Board of Aldermen place on a ballot in the very near future a referendum asking the voters to approve a "use tax" for internet sales. The trend today is to purchase items that are tax free through internet sales avoiding taxes which would normally help to pay for City services.

The police department reflects a decrease in expenses when compared to the previous year. Commissioned police officer salaries continue to be partially funded by Prop P sales tax income. For the time being, this fund continues to exceed the original St. Louis County estimates; however, it is expected that income will decrease over time because of the lack of sales tax revenue generated in the region.

Serious consideration is and will continue to be the utilization of the City's Recreation Center. The facility requires numerous and costly repairs and upgrades. Furthermore, as we progress through this fiscal year a primary focus will be on program offerings that are reflective of the needs of our community. This will give more opportunities for our residents, especially our youth, to engage in activities that are provided by the City. This will also give us insights on how Recreation Center resources and personnel are scaled and utilized.

HAND IN HAND, TOGETHER WE CAN!

Now Accepting Applications

- City Administrator
- Parks and Recreation Director
- Full-time Parks Maintenance Worker
- Part-time Recreation Workers (see website for specific positions)
- Various Commissions (Board of Adjustment, Image and Beautification, Human Relations, and Parks and Recreation etc.)

**For more information and to apply
go to www.cityofbn.com**

Phone: 314-867-0076

City Officials



**Tommie Pierson Sr.,
Mayor**
314-869-8251
tpierson@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2023



**Fran Stevens,
City Clerk**
314-867-0076
fstevens@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2023

Board of Aldermen



Barbara West
314-867-9347
bwest@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022

Ward
1



Rev. Dinah Tatman
847-238-2220
dtatman@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024



James Carroll
314-341-5693
jcarroll@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024

Ward
2



Theresa Reed
314-388-5780
treed@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022



James Thomas
314-580-7698
jthomas@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024

Ward
3



Jim Christian
314-341-8417
jchristian@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022



Alesee Dailes
314-403-0888
adailes@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024

Ward
4



Miranda Avant-Elliott, Ed.D
President of BOA
314-690-1797
Mavant-elliott@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Meetings

Board of Aldermen- 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Pre-Meetings are at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting- September 19, 7:30 p.m. at BN Recreation Center

Municipal Court- 2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. and 4th Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

| Commissions and Meeting Times | Chair | Alderman Representative |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Planning and Zoning Commission- 2nd Monday, 7 p.m. | Pat Barratt | Jim Christian |
| Public Safety Commission- 4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m. | John Koester | James Carroll |
| Youth Commission- 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. | Alicia Smith | N/A |
| Image and Beautification Board- 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. | Jennie Stewart | N/A |
| Parks and Recreation Board- 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. | Vacant | N/A |
| Board of Adjustment- Upon Request | John DuHadway | N/A |
| Human Relations Commission- Upon Request | Yolanda Poe | N/A |

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the City of BN City Hall except the Parks & Recreation committee, which is held at the BN Recreation Center.

How Did Your Alderperson Vote?

| Bill # | Date | Description | West (Ward 1) | Tatman (Ward 1) | Reed (Ward 2) | Wiese (Ward 2) | Carroll (Ward 2) | Thomas (Ward 3) | Christian (Ward 3) | Dalles (Ward 4) | Avant-Elliott (Ward 4) | Pass or Fail | Ord. # |
|--------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 2572 | 5/13/2020 | Ordinance to enter into a Contract With Idemia Identity (Thomas) | Y | Y | Y | Y | - | Y | Y | | Y | Pass | 2567 |
| 2573 | 5/13/2020 | Ordinance Establishing An Emergency Operations Purchasing Procedure (Christian) | N | Y | N | Y | - | Y | Y | | N | Failed | xxxx |
| 2574 | 5/13/2020 | Ordinance Amending Section 1-26 of Code of Ordinance - Video Conference (Wiese) | Y | Y | Y | Y | - | Y | Y | | Y | Pass | 2568 |
| 2575 | 5/21/2020 | Ordinance Approving a Contract with REJIS for Body Cameras PROPOSAL (REED) | Y | Y | Y | Y | - | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2569 |
| 2576 | 5/21/2020 | Ordinance Establishing Compensation for City Administrator (Avant-Elliott) | Y | N | Y | Y | - | N | Y | N | Y | Pass | 2570 |
| 2577 | 6/4/2020 | Ordinance for contract with REJIS Commission-Computer & Tech Support (Thomas) | Y | Y | Y | Y | - | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2571 |
| 2578 | 6/4/2020 | Ordinance Establishing An Emergency Purchasing Procedure (Dalles) | N | Y | N | Y | - | Y | N | Y | N | Failed | xxxx |
| 2579 | 6/4/2020 | Ordinance Establishing Civil Emergency Procedures during State of Emergency (Tatman) | Y | Y | N | Y | - | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2572 |
| 2580 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Section 29-90(C) Add Two New Sections - Sign Regulations (Avant-Elliott) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2573 |
| 2581 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Code Sections (ZONING) To Increase User Fees (Carroll) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2574 |
| 2582 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Code Sections To Relating to Window Displays of Alcohol (Tatman) | N | Y | Y | | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2575 |
| 2583 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Code Sections to Establish Increase User Fees For Bldg Dept. (Reed) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2576 |
| 2584 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Code Sections Relating To Illumination Offenses () Dalles) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2577 |
| 2585 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Amending Code Sections Relating To The Manner Of Ord. Passage (Christian) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2578 |
| 2586 | 6/18/2020 | Ordinance Declaring Results Of The 6/2/2020 General Election (Avant-Elliott) | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | 2579 |

Y = Yes, N = No, A = Abstain, Blank = Absent, R = Resigned, - = Not Appointed Yet

| Res # | Date | Description | West (Ward 1) | Tatman (Ward 1) | Reed (Ward 2) | Wiese (Ward 2) | Carroll (Ward 2) | Thomas (Ward 3) | Christian (Ward 3) | Dalles (Ward 4) | Avant-Elliott (Ward 4) | Pass or Fail | Ord. # |
|--------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 2020-2 | 5/21/2020 | Resolution Requesting that Municipalities receive an equitable distribution of the Cares Act funds given to St. Louis Co. (WEST) | Y | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Pass | |

All meetings, records and votes are open to the public; except that any meeting may be closed to discuss legal actions and advice, leasing and purchase of real estate, personnel matters, and other matters as outlined in Ord. No. 1572, § 1, 8-19-04 Sec. 1-21. The City Clerk, Fran Stevens at 867-0076 is the official keeper of records for copies.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Message from the Chief of Police



Colonel Jeremy Ihler
Chief of Police

This year has been challenging for many of us on many levels. COVID-19 remains a constant in our lifestyle that goes beyond social health. It has taken a toll on the national and regional economies, impacted employment, and overall has given cause to adapt to a new way in which to live. We have also experienced as a community and as a nation cause for change, which represents the heart of what policing in our community means by the police department's motto, "Powered by partnership, driven by community." The police and community in our City have always strived to work as one body to increase the overall quality of our lives as a whole.



The members of your police department always have and always will remain committed to serving you no matter the challenges that face us. Our roles as a whole community are in a constant state of evolution. Together, we always seek change to better the future for everyone.

As it concerns crime, we experienced an overall average increase of 2% in crime when comparing equal periods of 2019 and 2020 (Figure 1.). As always, we must remain vigilant in our effort to improve the quality of life in our community. We are also mindful that the real goal is continuous improvement in the long-term. Success is a process that continues and it requires the public and the police to work closely together.

Crime: Data, Reporting, and Reducing

As it concerns crime within the City, we have experienced a slight overall average increase of 2% in crime when collectively considering homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft when comparing equal periods of 2019 and 2020. (Figure 1.) As for crimes against persons, we have experienced an incremental increase in robbery, no change in homicide, and a decrease in rape and assault. As for crimes against property, we have experienced significant decreases in burglary and larceny while motor vehicle theft experienced an increase. As a community, please be mindful as to prevent crime by removing the opportunity for crime to occur.

Policing starts with you – the community. You are the heart of the policing mission and we require your involvement to increase the safety and security of our community. If you observe suspicious activity, a crime about to occur, or a crime in progress please call the police immediately so that the police department can investigate these matters quickly to prevent and stop crime. For non-emergency situations, call police dispatch at (314) 889-2341 or (636) 529-8210. For emergency situations, dial 911.

Figure 1.

| Crime Type | January - May | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------|----------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | % Change |
| Homicide | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0% |
| Rape | 2.0 | 1.0 | -50% |
| Robbery | 9.0 | 10.0 | 10% |
| Assault | 77.0 | 71.0 | -8% |
| Burglary | 57.0 | 43.0 | -25% |
| Larceny | 66.0 | 58.0 | -12% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 43.0 | 76.0 | 43% |
| | 255 | 260 | 2% |

Police Chaplain Contacts

Glen Connoley, gconnoley@cityofbn.com
Nathan Ruback, nruback@cityofbn.com
Tommie Harsley, tharsley@cityofbn.com
Greg Warnusz, gwarnusz@cityofbn.com
DWayne Elliott, drelliott@cityofbn.com



**Follow the Police
Department on Facebook!**

For the latest information affecting our community. <https://www.facebook.com/BellefontaineNeighborsPD/>

9PM

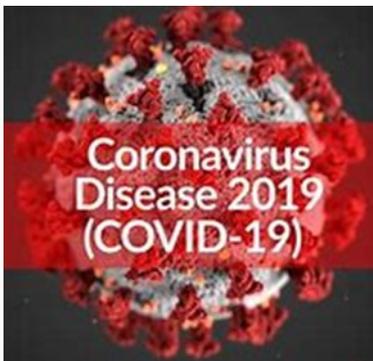
The police department encourages you to participate in the “9PM Routine,” which is a national campaign promoted by law enforcement to involve community in crime prevention. The majority of vehicle theft, property theft from vehicles, and home burglaries are CRIMES of OPPORTUNITY. There are too many vehicles are left unlocked with valuables inside during overnight hours. There are too many homes that have not taken advantage of adequate exterior lighting. Criminals targeting our vehicles and homes usually are not after a specific item, but rather any item(s) that may be of value.

The “9PM Routine” is your nightly responsibility to remove your valuables out of your vehicles and ensure ALL doors and windows are locked, including home and garage areas. It is also the time to make sure your exterior lighting is working. The goal of the 9 PM Routine is to combat auto thefts and home break-ins and help empower you to develop you own personal security routines by having a designated time to perform these tasks every night at 9PM.



The police department is calling upon you to meet with us and your neighbors. Although we are all one community and may share general commonalities, across our City, streets and blocks experience problems and issues that are unique to those who live in different areas. The police department wants and needs to work closely with you to address these different problems. We ask that you bring your neighbors together and reach out to us to have personal neighborhood meeting so that we can help each other determine solutions together.

Any resident who would like to host a meeting in their area to discuss crime and other policing related matters and initiatives, please contact the police department office during normal business hours, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, to make arrangements. The police department will have a police officer available to attend your meeting.



Coronavirus Disease 2019, otherwise known as COVID-19 still is, and will continue to be a topic and issue for all of us to continually manage for quite some time. As it concerns our City, the 63137 zip code, which includes Bellefontaine Neighbors, Glasgow, and Riverview, still remains one of the areas most impacted by this virus in St. Louis County. Currently, the 63137 has experienced 1517.50 positive cases per 100k persons as reported by St. Louis County.

Help us all stay healthy! The CDC still recommends the wearing of a cloth face covering in public when social distancing is difficult. Face coverings offer some protection against large infectious droplets spread when a person sneezes, coughs, or talks. Face coverings also help prevent those who may not know they are infectious from spreading the virus to others. Hygiene is also an important factor – wash your hands on a regular basis with soap and use hand sanitizer.

It is important that each and every one of us remain educated about this issue as events evolve. Sources for information on COVID-19 and how it impacts our community can be found at the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

Graduation Spotlight



Michael Clark son of Diane Clark and Lemuel Smith, graduated on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Chemical Engineering Degree and commissioned as an officer of the United States Army, 2nd Lieutenant. Michael was nominated by Congressman William Lacy Clay, Jr. to all three service Academies (West Point, Naval, Airforce) and West Point was the first to reach out and offer a full scholarship worth over half million dollars. Michael served as an Eagle Scout for Bellefontaine Troop 271. He is the 2nd Eagle Scout in the history of his troop that has accomplished such feat in graduating from West Point. He will begin his military

career by attending graduate school in the fall at Clemson University in South Carolina where he received a full scholarship. He will pursue a Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering.

Olivia C. Martin, daughter of Kendra Neely-Martin and Thomas Martin, is a 2020 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis (Wash U) with a degree in biomedical engineering. A passionate learner and influential student leader, Olivia has demonstrated sustainable community impact throughout her life. This past school year she identified leadership opportunities on campus by serving as Vice President for the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Alumni Relations chair for Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). Olivia has continued her efforts to pay it forward as the President for STRIVE for College by volunteering on Saturday mornings as a STRIVE for Education Mentor to high school student across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. In addition to her work with STRIVE, Olivia serves as the National Sales Network-BackPack to BriefCase Mentoring and Scholarship Program Student Liaison helping to assure a successful transition of colligate students to Corporate America. Currently, Olivia is conducting computational biology research at Wash U that analyzes the mechanisms that regulate angiogenic signaling with an emphasis in cross signaling. In the Fall, Olivia plans pursue a Masters Degree in biomedical engineering at Wash U. Her goal is to work in the field of drug research and development. Ultimately, Olivia is passionate about finding ways to increase access to medicine and healthcare to eliminate healthcare disparities in her community.



Tyra Jenkins was born and raised in Saint Louis, MO, where she resided in Bellefontaine neighbors for 20 years of her life. She is the daughter of Alderwoman Theresa Reed, the late Tyron Jenkins, and step-daughter of Paul Reed. She graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory as the Valedictorian of the class of 2012. Upon graduation, Tyra was accepted and received multiple scholarships granting her basically a full ride to the University of Missouri-Saint Louis (UMSL) Pierre Laclède Honors College. In May of 2016, she graduated from UMSL with cum laude honors and received her BS in Biology (Pre-Med) with an emphasis in Criminology. In 2014, during Tyra's time at UMSL she was moved by the unjust killings of African Americans by the hands of police officers that she started a free tutoring program in Ferguson, MO for all local elementary students. She found a way to give back to her community by helping educating and assisting students because she understood that knowledge is power. Tyra continued to tutor for 3 ½ years at Greater Grace church until she went on to further her education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Medicine. With hard work and extreme dedication to her studies, Tyra was awarded an interview to enroll in the Masters of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) program at UMKC. Soon after Tyra was accepted into the MSA program, she was very successful and officially graduated with her Master's degree in Anesthesia on May 18, 2020. Tyra is the 2nd African American to graduate from UMKC School of Medicine MSA program. She has taken her ambitions to Oklahoma City where she will start her official first job as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant, CAA.

understood that knowledge is power. Tyra continued to tutor for 3 ½ years at Greater Grace church until she went on to further her education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Medicine. With hard work and extreme dedication to her studies, Tyra was awarded an interview to enroll in the Masters of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) program at UMKC. Soon after Tyra was accepted into the MSA program, she was very successful and officially graduated with her Master's degree in Anesthesia on May 18, 2020. Tyra is the 2nd African American to graduate from UMKC School of Medicine MSA program. She has taken her ambitions to Oklahoma City where she will start her official first job as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant, CAA.

Local Community News



RIVERVIEW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWS

Provided by: Jennifer Swatek, Fire fighter/paramedic

Some exciting news from Riverview Fire Protection District!!! But before we get to that, we want to thank each and every one of our residents for your support in getting Proposition I passed. Work has already begun on securing the two locations and building plans are being drawn up. Again...we couldn't do this without you!!!

More exciting news from RFPD:



Thanks to Chief Goldstein's diligent and tireless efforts your RFPD is the gracious recipient of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant, which enabled us to save close to \$30K in taxpayer dollars in the procurement and implementation of extremely important water rescue craft and equipment.

One of the many reasons we felt it was necessary to have this equipment is due to the incident on July 12, 2019 where two teenagers tragically drowned in a flood-swollen Maline Creek in Bellefontaine Neighbors. At that time we were reliant on mutual aid from surrounding districts capable of assisting in this type of water recovery, but not anymore. Now we have our own equipment and we are currently sending firefighters through difficult and strenuous training to use this very important equipment.



Lastly, we wanted to let you know about an event to help support the Riverview Firefighters Community Outreach! On August 15, 2020, we will be hosting a BBQ in Jennings. Please follow our Facebook page, or check our website, for details to come!!!!

Riverview Fire Protection Director Meetings

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise posted

Location: 9933 Diamond Drive

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Provided by: Anthony Kiekow, Former Communications Director

Newsletter Information

- Tiandra Bland has been appointed Lewis & Clark Elementary School Principal
- Windy Winfield has been appointed Meadows Elementary School Principal
- The Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) announced that Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center (MO-ECAC) has been named the 2020 Future Builders' Foundation Early Childhood Education Program of the Year in the large school district category

The RGHS Class of 2020 was celebrated during a parade. Here are the class highlights:

- Approximately 240 graduates
- Six graduates earned the distinction of summa cum laude (4.0 or higher GPA)
- Five graduates earned the distinction of magna cum laude (3.8-3.9 GPA)
- Nine graduates earned the distinction of cum laude (3.5-3.7 GPA)
- Graduates will matriculate to a variety of learning institutions, including Morehouse College, St. Louis University, Texas Southern University, Chicago State University, St. Louis Community College, Alabama State University, Grabber School of Hair Design and Clark Atlanta University
- Graduates were awarded more than \$2.5 million in scholarships
- Jayden Keys, who will attend Morehouse College, is the 2020 RGHS Valedictorian
- Samya Simpson, who will attend Texas Southern University, is the 2020 RGHS Salutatorian

Jobs: Riverview Gardens School District is hiring for multiple positions, including teachers, substitute teachers, custodians, security and food service. Apply at www.rgsdmo.org

Board of Education Meetings

All meetings of the Special Administrative Board will be held on the second & fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Go to the website for details on meeting format .

Image and Beautification Board Committee Updates

The **Image and Beautification Commission** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at City Hall. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The commission consists of volunteers who assist in enhancing the image and beauty in the city. Along with upkeep of any community flowerbeds, the commission and its volunteers pick up litter along our major roads twice a year. The commission also selects the homes each year for the Summer Beautification and Holiday Decorations awards.

Residents can adopt a Metro Bus Stop in Bellefontaine Neighbors, just call Metro Transit at 314-982-1466 or visit their website at "metrostlouis.org" and click on Adopt-A-Stop for more information.

The next citywide clean-up scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m. please check website and other media for updates and contact city hall at 314-867-0076 and let the operator know you are willing to volunteer. Judging of Home Christmas Decorations will take place during the week of December 13.

Image and Beautification Commission Chair: Jennie Stewart

REMINDERS: Trash containers should be stored behind the front wall of your property. Trash containers shouldn't be placed at the curb no earlier than 5pm on the day prior to your trash day and must be removed by 5pm on the day after collection. Grass should be no taller than 8 inches in height and grass clippings may not be left in the street.

Let's Work Together to Keep Our City Clean and Beautiful

- ⇒ Don't leave cut grass in the street
- ⇒ Rake leaves - Don't let them accumulate on your lawn or in the sewer
- ⇒ Remove broken limbs and debris and put them in the yard waste container
- ⇒ Cut back overgrown bushes/shrubs
- ⇒ Replace damaged garage doors and windows
- ⇒ Paint and fix up



Upcoming City Events 2020

September 26th, 9am-1pm City-wide Clean-up

December 13th, Home Christmas Decoration Judging Begins

For Ward specific activities contact your alderpersons

City Hall Holidays

Labor Day, Monday, September 7

Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26

Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27

Christmas Eve, Thursday December 24 (Close at noon)

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

This publication was developed and edited by Ward 4 Alderwoman, Dr. Miranda Avant-Elliott with the collaboration from city officials, staff, and BN community